

VOL. XXXII. NO. 40

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 29 1910

WHOLE NO. 1660

XMAS FESTIVITIES

At the Alma Churches Started Friday Evening.

GENERAL RESUME OF EVENTS

Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopal Join in Season's Cheer.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The celebration of Christmas began Friday evening when the Sunday school sat down to a dinner at six o'clock for which committees of the teachers and scholars had been preparing for many days. It was a typical Christmas dinner with its turkey and all that should go with it on such an occasion. Eighty-three pounds of turkey had been provided and it was none too much for the two hundred who were served. It was a very successful dinner. The force of helpers in the kitchen and dining rooms was as large as could be used so that everything was quickly served. It was a pleasure to see members of the school of all ages enjoying it.

This was followed by a Christmas program in the parlors culminating in the stripping of the Christmas tree of its gifts and sweet meats. There was nothing formal about this part of the evening. The children were given all the liberty necessary for a jolly good time. Great credit is due to those who had charge of each part of the evening's pleasure, their success is abundant reward.

On Saturday baskets were distributed with greetings from the school to a number of families in the community to whose Christmas pleasure the school wished to contribute as best it could. If in this way there was any ministry of comfort or cheer to those who received there was surely as large a measure of pleasure to those who gave. Those fifteen baskets included eleven sacks of flour, thirteen roasts, many packages of potatoes, sugar, coffee, tea, fruit, besides clothing and other articles. At Ithaca one class from the school visited the county farm and distributed individual gifts, candy, and fruit to every one there.

A group of young ladies had prepared and sent a box to Miss Laura Soule to be used in the work in North Carolina. The Fortnightly society sent another box to the same place. The combined value of these boxes was at least \$100.

When Sunday came everyone was in the best of spirit for the services of worship and praise. A special choir assisted in the music which was a feature of both services. The sermon of the morning dealt with the expression of God in the Incarnation. For this expression the world is both receptive and responsive. It can be interpreted only by the direct ministries of the Spirit of God. In the evening carols and hymns were used in the singing of praises. Mr. A. H. Platte of Detroit played for the entire service. His prelude and postlude were enjoyed even as were his offertory and one other number. The theme of the brief address was "Missing the Christmas Gift." The music of the evening was a rare pleasure. Many recalled Mr. Platte's service at the organ a year ago at the Christmas time.

Dr. Fredk. J. Soule of Somerville, N. J., better known in the Sunday school where he was a former pupil, as "Fred" gave a very interesting talk to the children, in substance as follows:

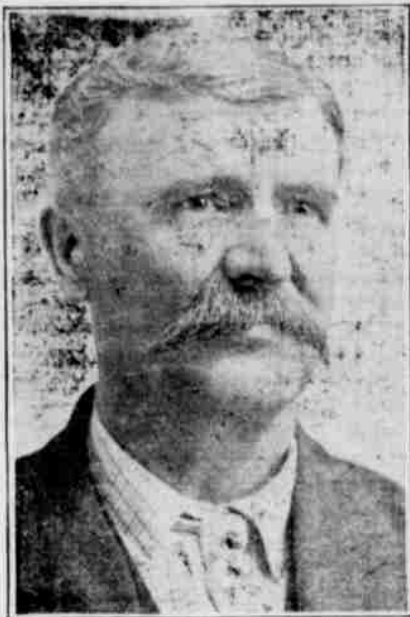
He spoke of the "Rain Tree" which curls its leaves, catching the dew at night, and in the morning unfolds them, shedding water upon the soil underneath, and also of the "Upas Tree"—of the stories—which gives off a subtle poison to cause the death of the traveler who rests under its branches, finally drawing an analogy between the life of the "Rain Tree" and a child's life.

He then spoke of the "Christmas Tree," and thought some thought the presents were the most interesting thing concerning it, he said the greatest was the transformation from a seed to a grown tree under the light of the sun, a picture of the transformation of a child's life under the light of the Son of Righteousness. The spreading of Christ's light was illustrated by the use of candles.

A substantial offering was received for the benefit of the home at Fenton, Mich., for aged ministers.

The following were remembered with appropriate gifts for practical loyalty to the school in bringing in new scholars and regular attendance: Miss Loretta Clune, Martha Bartram, Marguerite Moore, Bradley Sartor, Mildred Chapman, Paul Moore.

A large audience was present at the



John B. Rowell, who Saturday night at 12 o'clock, will succeed Frank L. Convis as sheriff of Gratiot Co.

Christmas tree exercises of the First Baptist Sunday school, Friday evening, December 23rd. The older members of the congregation were well entertained by the little folks who acquitted themselves creditably in the following program:

For the children the piece de resistance was the picking of the fruit from the gaily decorated tree.

Organ Voluntary, Miss Crandall; Singing, Ring Out Joy-Bells, School; Responsive reading, Psalm 103 and Prayer, Pastor Cook; Address of Welcome, Mertha Bartram; Singing, We Crown Him, School; Address, Rev. Fredk. Soule, Ph. D.; Recitation, Holy Night, Golda DePlanta; Recitation, If you had a Quarter, Bradley Sartor; Duet, Two Oriental Kings, Jas. Hopkins and Joseph Wilson; Recitation, The Christmas Tree, Caris Sartor; Recitation, From Bobby's Point of View, Robt. Baker; Singing, Sing Ye Waves of Ocean, School; Exercise, Christmas Blossoms, Six girls; Song, Be Happy, Primary Department; Song, Crowned Jewels, six boys; Recitation, Our Christmas, Harold Bartram; Solo, Florence DePlanta; Song, O Little Stars, Paul Moore, Robt. Baker, Hervey Bartram; Offering, for Baptist Ministers Home, Fenton, Mich.; Notices, Thanks, Etc.; Picking Fruit, Distribution of gifts, awards, etc.

Saturday evening, Christmas eve, will long be remembered by the pupils of St. John's Sunday school. An interesting program had been prepared consisting of recitations and carols by the Sunday school. An address by Rev. Jackson and a tree loaded with presents for each and every child. The program was well executed and all present, both children and adults, had an exceptionally enjoyable evening.

Christmas at the M. E. Church.
The Christmas exercises of the Methodist Sunday school were held at the church on Christmas eve, Saturday, December 24th, consisting of a short program of recitations and songs.

The auditorium was beautifully decorated with evergreen and Christmas bells which with the two trees, one on each side of the rostrum, made a very pleasing appearance.

Gifts were presented by the Sunday school to each of the boys and girls and by teachers to classes and classes to teachers, and by the school to superintendent, etc.

Believing that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," the school was urged to bring their gifts for the needy and a committee was appointed to distribute them. A box of gifts will be sent to the Beulah Home for boys at Boyne City, and one to the Deaconess Home at Grand Rapids. Some of the boys and girls brought money as a gift and this will be used for Missions.

BODY CUT BY TRAIN

Dr. A. J. Ervay Struck While Walking on the Tracks at Wheeler.

A message from Wheeler under date of December 26 contained the following: While walking on the tracks of the Pere Marquette railroad near this place to night, Dr. A. J. Ervay, aged 65, a well-known practicing physician of this place, was struck by a Pere Marquette fast passenger train, en route from Grand Rapids to Saginaw, and was cut in two, his body being scattered along the tracks.

The doctor had been in the habit of taking a short cut along the tracks while out making his professional calls and had been told that if he was not more careful he would be killed.

He is survived by a widow and one daughter, Mrs. John Steele of Ithaca.

ALMA PIONEER DEAD

Mrs. John Hicks Passes to the Great Beyond.

WAS SICK ONLY A SHORT TIME

Funeral Services Last Friday at St. John's Church.

Miss Amanda W. Barnes was born in Delhi, Ingham county, Michigan, April 27, 1847, and died at her home, 408 West Superior street, Alma December 21, 1910.

Miss Barnes was married August 22, 1866, at Lenia, Mich., to Mr. John Hicks, Jr., and with her husband lived on a farm in Isabella county until they moved to Alma in 1870. To them were born four children as follows: Jay R. Hicks, Dora A. Hicks, Flora M. Wise and Bert Hicks, all of whom are well-known residents of Alma. Taken only a few short days before her death, the announcement to her friends, many of whom had not heard of her illness, came as a severe shock. Mrs. Hicks was a member of St. John's church from which place funeral services were held Friday afternoon at 1:30, followed by burial in Riverside cemetery.

Mrs. Hicks was particularly devoted to her home, was a thorough conscientious christian lady and one who will be greatly missed by her numerous friends throughout this vicinity. In addition to her children Mrs. Hicks leaves a sister, Mrs. Mary A. Knight of Petoskey, and a brother, Mr. Scott Barnes of Isabella county to mourn the loss of a loving sister.

COMMUNICATED

In the days of the prophets, idol worship was the bane of the worship of the true God, and the worshippers of Bael were destroyed by the order and sanction of God; and the admonitions of Christ were to avoid the worship of wood and stone. There seems to be an innate disposition in man to worship tangible objects or heroes, which is easily seen by observing the actions of the general public in their worship and adoration of any one who has accomplished some worthy deed or has made some wonderful discovery or brought to light some hidden mystery of nature which is of great worth or delight to his fellow man, or has risked life in the rescue of those who were in peril, or has gained some great victory in battle. Coveting these honors many jealousies have arisen and strife and enmity have caused between those who have striven for honors, the contestants well knowing the inclination of humanity to follow with laud and praise, those who have accomplished great feats. A great many examples might be cited to substantiate this, as that of Saul who grew so jealous of David that he sought his life simply because greater honor was being shown to David for having accomplished that which Saul was afraid to undertake. In later days we need only call to recollection the Sampson-Schley episode, or the Peary-Cook contention. We all have our idols in the persons of Washington, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, McKinley and Dewey. The Wright Bros. have made Dayton famous the world over and not a citizen of Dayton but feels proud of the fact that the Wrights were citizens of Dayton. Let any obscure boy of our own town accomplish something great which starts the tide of glory in his direction and we are all proud to say he is an Alma boy. Now what has all this got to do with what we were going to say? It is this, that there is one great Myth who is worshipped, and talked of, and watched for, feared and revered to the exclusion of the worship of the true God on Christmas day, this Gobbler is Santa Claus. We would not advise withholding due respect to whom honor is due, but we advocate rendering "unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

We would advise parents and those who have the care of children to be more diligent in inculcating greater reverence for the babe of Bethlehem than to the worship of an idol in the person of Santa Claus. We believe that there are children in our city who have arrived at the reasoning age who do not know what Christmas commemorates nor do they know the story of the birth of Christ, and have no idea of who he is, nor that Christmas day should be reserved as a Holy day instead of a holiday. As the celebration of the Passover was imperatively demanded of the Jewish people so also the celebration of Christmas should be reverently taught and not be sacrilegiously degraded by a READER.



Chase S. Osborn, governor-elect, who under the head "Who's Who—and Why," The Saturday Evening Post of Dec. 24, devoted a page write up of Michigan's "Chase."

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions adopted by Smiley Hive No. 288, L. O. T. M. M., on the death of

Mrs. Lavina Wiley.
Whereas, death with his keen sickle has entered the portals of our lodge, December 16, 1910, and taken from our midst our worthy sister Mrs. Lavina Wiley, therefore be it

Resolved, that while we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who creates all things, we feel that in the death of our beloved sister we have lost a worthy member of our fraternity, one who was ever ready to offer her hand in aid and her voice in sympathy to the distressed, a member always active and whose utmost endeavors were exerted for its welfare and prosperity.

Resolved, that in the death of one sister, her husband has lost a devoted and constant wife, her children a loving and indulgent mother, her mother a loving daughter, her sisters and brother a gentle and affectionate sister and our fraternity a zealous faithful member.

Resolved, that we hereby realize our loss and we do at this time tender to the bereaved husband, children and relatives our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in this hour of their sorrow and bereavement.

Resolved, that the charter of Smiley Hive, No. 288, be draped in mourning for thirty days as a token of respect to the memory of our deceased sister, and a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family and spread upon the records of Smiley Hive, also be published in the Alma Record.

Elwell, Mich., December 26, 1910.
**NETTIE POTTER,
NINA MALLORY,
ELLA MEDLER,**
Committee.

ALUMNI REUNION

Score or More Gather at the Home of J. W. Robinson and Organize.

Last evening a score or more of the alumni of Alma college gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robinson and after an hour spent in social cheer organized what is to be known as the Central Alumni association.

The association is officered as follows: president, James Mitchell; Sec. and Treas., Willis Brooks.

A committee to frame constitution and by-laws was appointed as follows: Frank Hurst, Greta Bagley and Henry Soule. The association plans to hold their annual meeting during the holiday week of each year.

FAMILY REUNION.

Christmas day Mrs. Sylvia Gaffney entertained at dinner, besides her immediate family, her mother, Mrs. Robert Kerr of Detroit, her brother, A. J. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Dunlap and daughter Helen also of Detroit. This was the first time the family had been together for some years and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

Bert Forquer was exhibiting a lemon recently, which weighed 2 pounds and 3 ounces, and which was sent to him by his father, who resides at Red Bluffs, California. It was certainly a large specimen.

ST. LOUIS SUGAR CO.

A Thriving Gratiot Co. Industry—Organized in 1903.

CUTTING 600 TONS DAILY

Short History of the Organization and Subsequent Growth.

The St. Louis Sugar factory was built in 1903 with capital secured by popular subscription. The most of the stock was taken by local residents, farmers and residents of Holland. C. M. McLean and J. H. Post, who had attained great success with the Holland plant, were quite instrumental in inaugurating the enterprise and Mr. McLean is now the president of the company. He has done more to shape the policies of the company and guide it to its successful condition than any other individual. At the present time there are about two hundred and fifty stock holders, no one of whom owns a large block of stock, and this company is not controlled by any particular individual or interest, but the majority of stockholders actually govern through their representative directors.

The present board of directors are: C. M. McLean of Holland, manager of the Holland Sugar company; J. H. Whitney of Merrill, state senator and hardware merchant; Geo. W. Brown of Holland, president and manager of Ottawa Furniture company; J. J. Cappon of Holland, manager Cappon & Burtch Tannery company; Cass T. Wright of Greenville, proprietor Greenville Implement company; John W. Pfeiffer of Edmore, of Pfeiffer & Burch, lumbermen; John J. Bale of Lakeview, lumber and general merchant; Wm. L. Vost of St. Louis, hardware merchant; B. A. Church of Ann Arbor, recently cashier Gratiot county State Bank.

The officers are: C. M. McLean, president; J. H. Whitney, vice president; B. C. Hubbard, secretary and treasurer; F. H. Hubbard, manager.

Agriculturists: Geo. E. Smith, R. E. Kline, C. J. Shepard, Frank Baker, E. M. Wagner, W. B. Hutchinson, Freeman Johnson.

This factory has always been one of the most successful in the state, and has never had any set back as most new factories experience. The company has always paid its owners fair dividends and has expanded from a comparatively small capacity of 350 tons per day to about 600 tons.

It has paid out to the farmers of this vicinity during its eight campaigns approximately one and three fourths million dollars and to the laboring men about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Has paid in taxes about fifty thousand dollars and expended gratuitously on roads in this county nearly seven thousand dollars. It has installed twenty receiving stations to make the delivery of beets convenient to the farmers and has brought into the county at its own expense hundreds of special beet workers to assist the farmers not only in taking care of the best crop but in all other kinds of work. This one item which has been of so much help to the farmers costs the company from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per year. The company also loans the farmers from \$30,000 to \$45,000 per year to assist them in paying for their farm labor.

During this seven years the entire list of farmers, good, bad and indifferent have realized an average net profit of about \$15.00 per acre, while the better class of farmers have made a net profit of about \$26.00 per acre per year. Beside this the sugar industry has inspired better methods of farming until a much larger yield of other crops such as oats, clover, corn, beans, etc., is being produced. Farm lands in the vicinity of St. Louis were offered for sale in 1903 at from \$35.00 to \$65.00 per acre, while at the present time many farmers are changing hands at from \$75.00 to \$125.00 per acre. Can any one doubt that the sugar business has had much influence in bringing about this increase in value, also can any one doubt that a part of the two million dollars paid out by the sugar company has helped to make the 100% increase in bank deposits during the past eight years?

There seems to be a prevailing impression that while the market price of other farm crops has advanced the prices paid for beets by the sugar companies have not changed. The following statistics taken from the books of the St. Louis Sugar company shows that it is a mistake, and prices per ton have advanced very materially.

The following is the average net price per ton paid to the farmers for their beets:

1904, average price per ton, \$5.41
1905, average price per ton, 5.38
1906, average price per ton, 5.24



J. D. Helman, Gratiot Co.'s popular auctioneer, a resident of Alma, who rumor says, is slated for the position of under sheriff.

1907, average price per ton, 5.37
1908, average price per ton, 5.83
1909, average price per ton, 6.23

As nearly as can be estimated at the time of this writing the average price paid for 1910 will be about \$5.90 per ton. There are also ways in which the cost in labor of the production of beets has been reduced very materially, but has added to the cost per ton to the sugar companies.

Seven years ago the sugar company received beets only at the factory sheds and in quantities as they required them. Farmers living beyond the wagon haul distance had to load and ship their own beets at such times as convenient to the factories and the farmer had to stand the shrinkage and inconvenience. The farmers who raised beets then will remember what this means. No, the factories at very great expense of installation and maintenance, have established weigh stations at all regular railroad stations and crossings between stations where the farmers can deliver their beets with the least possible labor, and the shrinkage which amounts to from 3% to 5% is borne by the factory instead of the farmer. The farmers are now privileged to haul their beets at any time most convenient to themselves and if the factories cannot take care of them they are received just the same and dumped on the ground at the weigh stations to be protected and reloaded on cars at the sugar companies' expense. This year it will cost the St. Louis company several thousand dollars for beet tops which they have purchased to protect the beets that are piled on the ground, and for picking up and loading on cars.

The farmers are now producing more beets per acre than formerly and doing it cheaper or with less labor. Also the cost of hand labor in the beets has actually decreased, while other farm labor has advanced very much. Here are some of the results obtained this year by beet raisers for the St. Louis Sugar company:

Frank McLean, St. Louis, from 6.1 acres of beets received \$647.63; Geo. Acker, Jr., Forest Hill from 4 acres of beets received \$308.93 or \$77.23 per acre; Alfred Cole, Breckenridge, from two acres of beets received \$174.34 or \$87.17 per acre; Murdo McIntosh, Breckenridge, from 18 acres of beets received \$1,446.46 or \$80.35 per acre; Charles Griffith, Merrill, from 80 acres received \$5,394.17 or \$67.42 per acre.

In addition to this each of the above parties could have sold his beet tops to the sugar company for covering beets, at not less than \$8.00 per acre, but did not do so as he considered them of more value for feed. Hundreds of other farmers have had equally as good yields as all the above except Mr. McLean. His yield is exceptionally high.

The sugar company this year are themselves raising about 300 acres of beets, which as nearly as can be estimated at the time of this writing, will yield them a net profit of more than \$1.00 per ton, or in other words will cost them more than one dollar per ton less than the price paid to farmers, and that after paying very high rental for the land and paying for supervision and all labor. They plan to plant 1,000 acres next year.

Another benefit resulting from the sugar business in this county is increasing the supply of farm laborers. There is less difficulty to get farm labor in the beet growing sections than in other parts of the state. The reason is obvious, the demand has created the supply; and farm hands can get steady work on the farms for six or seven months and then work in the sugar factories a part of the winter at high wages.

The sugar factories are able to pay the increased cost of beets because of improvements in methods in the factory and utilizing the by-products such as pulp and molasses. The price of sugar, however, has not increased with the price of other food stuffs as is shown by the following list of prices:

Continued on page 2

CHURCH WEDDING

Miss Nellie Sharlan and Harry Markham Married Christmas Day.

AT FOREST HILL CHURCH

The Newly Married Couple Will Make Their Future Home at Forest Hill.

On Sunday evening, December 25th, the Church of Christ, Forest Hill, was the scene of a beautiful little wedding. The contracting parties were Mr. Harry Markham and Miss Nellie Sharlan. The officiating minister was the pastor, Rev. A. Noffsinger. A lovely ring ceremony was used. Miss Ethel Markham acted as bridesmaid, Mr. Orville Cusic as best man, Mrs. Mae Youngblood as maid of honor and little Mildred Sharlan as ring bearer. The wedding march was rendered by Miss Beatrice Sherwood. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. S. Oberlin. The church was delightfully decorated with holly.

After the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Oberlin gave a reception for the young couple. Their relatives and intimate friends attended. A dainty luncheon was served of ice cream and cake in the beautiful decorated dining room by Mrs. D. Hayes and Mrs. H. Wood. The bride and bridegroom received many beautiful presents.

The bride is one of the most charming of our girls and the bridegroom a very worthy young man. They have the hearty congratulations of their friends.

MICHIGAN CROP REPORT.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 7, 1910.

The condition of wheat as compared with an average per cent, is 96 in the state, 95 in the southern counties, 98 in the central counties, 99 in the northern counties and 92 in the Upper Peninsula. One year ago the per cent, was 92 in the state and central counties, 90 in the southern counties and Upper Peninsula and 95 in the northern counties. The total number of bushels of wheat marketed by farmers in November at 124 flouring mills was 181,236 and at 115 elevators and to grain dealers 127,159, or a total of 308,395 bushels. Of this amount 193,690 bushels were marketed in the southern four tiers of counties, 96,146 in the central counties and 18,559 in the northern counties and Upper Peninsula. The estimated total number of bushels of wheat marketed in the four months, August-November is 4,500,000. Sixty-two mills elevators and grain dealers report no wheat marketed in November. The total number of bushels of wheat yet remaining in possession of growers is estimated at 10,700,000.

The condition of rye as compared with an average per cent, is 96 in the state, 95 in the southern counties, 98 in the central counties and 94 in the northern counties and Upper Peninsula. One year ago the per cent, was 91 in the state and central counties, 90 in the southern counties, 94 in the northern counties and 89 in the Upper Peninsula.

The condition of live stock throughout the state is 97 for horses, sheep and swine and 96 for cattle. The condition of fall pasture as compared with an average per cent, is 91 in the state, 90 in the southern counties, 92 in the central counties, 94 in the northern counties and 89 in the Upper Peninsula.

FREDERICK C. MARTINDALE,
Secretary of State.

The Civic Improvement league will hold its first meeting of the year 1911 at the free reading rooms, Friday, January 6th at 3 p. m. Will every one interested in the work of the league and especially in the real rooms make an effort to be present. At this meeting reports of the different committees will be given and plans made for carrying on the work for the coming year. A suggestion for raising money will also be discussed and acted upon. This meeting will be of the greatest importance and should certainly be well attended.

ADVERTISED LETTERS

Advertised list for the week ending December 24th, 1910. Chas. Burkholder, Chas. M. Chaffin, Richard Jones (2), J. W. Moore, Tokimo Company.

The above if not called for will be sent to the Dead Letter Office January 9th, 1911.

The Baptist Young People gave a sleigh-ride party and supper at the home of Mr. Shiff's, five miles north of this city Monday evening in honor of Lester Sharp and Fred Soule.